Conversion of Lalkuan and Kathgodam Rail Line

*337. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received memorandam from public as well as Members of Parliament for running a direct train from Delhi to Kathgodam (Haldwani) in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the portion between Lalkuan and Kathgodam requirs to be converted into Broad gauge line;

(d) if so, what action Government have so far taken in this regard; and

(e) by when the conversion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Running of a direct B.G. train from Delhi to Kathgodam is not feasible because of change of gauge. Running a direct train by all metre gauge route will involve additional distance of 328 Km. and more fare due to which it will not at all be popular.

(c) to (e) Parallel B.G. line between Lalkuan and New Haldwani (near Kathgodam) is part of approved B.G. line project from Rampur to New Haldwani. The completion of the new B.G. line will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Direct Air India Flight from Calcutta to Jeddah

*338. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is not inclined to undertake direct flight from Calcutta to Jeddah for Haj pilgrims; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) and (b) Air India is prepared to operate direct flights between Calcutta and Jeddah, for the benefit of Haj pilgrims subject to viable traffic potential, availibility of capacity and mutual commercial arrangements with other airlines.

News Item Air India Probe into Stowaway Incident

*339 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'The Times of India' of the 22nd August, 1985 under the caption "Air India probe into stowaway incident";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the incident; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 17th August, 1985 two boys aged about 10 and 14—Irish Nationals got into Air India flight AI-111 of August 17 at London after passing throug U.K. immigration and other check points of British Airport Security. On landing at JFK Airport New York, they evaded the New York immigration and customs check points and came out of the

terminal building. They were however, intercepted by the airport Police authorities outside JFK arrival hall on the same day.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An enquiry was conducted by Air India as a result of which the services of one traffic assistant have been terminated and two other officers have been demoted.

Special security force for protection of airports

*340. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to form a special security force to look into the security at the airports; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Insurance scheme for poor teachers

@2342. SHRI MOSTAFA BINQUASEM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce an insurance scheme for the poor teachers of all categories; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Question does not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1697, transferred from the 3rd December, 1985.

Recruitment of seamen from Bombay and Calcutta

2343. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are upholding the agreement to recruit 70 per cent of seamen from Bombay and 30 per cent from Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) Agreement was to have been reached between Seamen's union at Calcutta and Bombay. But they have not been able to reach any agreement since 1973.

Konkan Railway in Karnataka

2344. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Konkan Railway in Karnataka;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) what are the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Final location survey for Broad Gauge line from Mangalore to Madgaon along with evaluation of the complete Konkan railway project from Mangalore to Roha is presently on hand. After completion of this survey further decision will be taken depending on the financial remunerativeness of the project and the availability of resources.

Development of the Haldia-Allahabad National Waterways

2345. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state: